(b) if so, the capacity of Chiria Mines in respect of current iron ore reserves, mineable and probable; and

(c) what is the quality of Fe content, in terms of percentage, in Chiria Mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) As per available information the total economically mineable iron ore reserves in the Chiria mines in Jharkhand are estimated at 1974.45 million tonnes as on 1.4.2005, and the Fe content assessed in the various mining leases of M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. in Chiria varied between 61.70% to 65.90%.

Illegal mining activities

236. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal mining at the mountains and hills in the country is at the peak these days;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such mining is rapidly increasing at Aravali, Shivalik, Himalayas, Vindhyachal, Satpura, Deccan Plateau and the Nilgiri mountains;

(c) if so, the details of the loss suffered by the inhabitants of these areas, including the cultivable land and forest areas destroyed; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for the protection of the mountains and the inhabitants of the areas, and also the bonded labour working at the mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Instances of illegal mining have come to the notice of the Central Government from time to time. The State Governments have been delegated power to frame Rules for prevention of illegal mining, transportation etc. under Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. Central Government has asked State Governments to frame Rules under Section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957 and constitute task force at State and District Levels having a nominee from Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines. Central Government also monitors the instances of illegal mining, action taken by the State Government against such activities to curb illegal mining with the Secretaries of State Governments from time to time. State Governments have been asked to furnish quarterly returns in the prescribed proforma on instances of illegal mining and action taken to Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the administrative control of this Ministry. IBM has also been asked to undertake spot inspection of the area and furnish action taken report/comments to this Ministry.

Illegal mining in Haryana

237. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state: